

To Senator Osten, Representative Tercyak, and the distinguished members of the labor committee:

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 249, the 'Retirement for All' bill. Everyone deserves the right to retire with dignity. But too often workers don't have access to pensions or savings plans. This plan would give everyone the chance to put money away and have a secure retirement.

My name is Mary Ann Pomanski, and I myself didn't have access to a pension plan or retirement savings account. I worked at the BIC pen factory for more than 20 years. While on the job, I injured my back. Because of that injury, I receive a small disability payment in addition to social security. If I hadn't been injured, I might still be working today. As it is, my husband and I are just getting by.

I urge the Labor Committee to pass the 'Retirement for All' bill so that people like me, who worked hard their whole lives, can save for retirement. It shouldn't be a gamble, and it we shouldn't have to work in to our old age.